(Rs. 4745 crore) mark. Investment especially from private sector is expected to increase accordingly.

(d) The investment mainly from the Department of Biotechnology since 1997 for the promotion of biotechnology in the country is given below:

YEAR	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
EXPENDITURE (Rs. In Crores)	85.22	104.46	116.38	140.90	174.94	204.78	248.82

In addition, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Science and Technology and other Ministries are also investing on specific projects and activities and on their autonomous institutions.

Checking the import of G.M. foods

†3225. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that genetically modified food products are being imported unchecked in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an experiment has revealed the cases of diseases related to kidney, liver, change in blood cells and reduction in reproduction capacity in the mice as a result of eating the genetically modified maize;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check the import of genetically modified food products; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) We are not aware of any import of genetically modified food products in India. However, import of genetically

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

modified products is regulated through Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules 1989 made thereunder, wherein it is mandatory to seek approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), Ministry of Environment & Forests, before releasing any genetically modified product in the country.

(b) There is no scientific literature to indicate any kidney or liver disease or any change in reproductive capacity in rats fed on genetically modified maize nor any experiments conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad reveal any cases of kidney or liver diseases.

(c) and (d) As on date, GEAC has not approved release of any genetically modified food product.

Development of National Waterway-III

3226. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the development work of National Waterway-III.

(b) whether any proposal seeking sanction to develop the National Waterway submitted by the State Government of Kerala is pending;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether Government have conducted any feasibility study for the renovation of waterway from Kollam to Kovalam; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Various development works like capital dredging, construction of terminals, provision of channel markings, bank protection works, etc. have been undertaken in National Waterway-3. Capital dredging has been completed between Kochi and Thakazhi jetty (South of Alappuzha) stretch as also in Udyogmandal and Champakara canals. Capital dredging is in progress in Kochi-Kottapuram stretch. In the remaining stretch of waterway from Thakazhi jetty to Kollam (50 Km.), the dredging work has come to a stand-still due to some local issues and contractual problems. Terminals at seven locations namely Kottapuram, Aluva, Maradu, Viakom, Thannermukkom, Trikkunnapuzha and